Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086103
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY S/S - MR. WISNER
----------105597 041737Z /64
O 041713Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER DATED APRIL 3 TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT FROM PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: ROSALYNN AND I WERE DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE OUTPOURING OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH WE EXPERIENCED WHILE IN LIBERIA. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY AND WARM WELCOME.

ALTHOUGH WE COULD ONLY BE WITH YOU FOR A SHORT TIME, THE OCCASION OFFERED A LONG OVERDUE OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THE UNIQUE HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. I HAVE VALUED YOUR ADVICE AND COUNSEL IN THE PAST, AND OUR TALKS TODAY CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO MY UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICA. I FIND IT PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE THAT IN ADDITION TO YOUR INTENSE CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF LIBERIA, YOU TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN ADDRESSING THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING AFRICA AND THE WORLD. YOUR LEADERSHIP IN CONVENING THE MONROVIA SUMMIT
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WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR STATESMANSHIP.

I APPRECIATED YOUR STRONG EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE

POLICIES WHICH WE ARE PURSUING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE HORN, AND VALUE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DANGER WHICH THE INTRUSION OF FOREIGN POWERS IN AFRICAN DISPUTES POSE

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TO YOUR CONTINENT'S STABILITY AND WELL-BEING.

OUR MEETING MARKED A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. I ADMIRE YOUR STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND AM PROUD TO ASSOCIATE THE UNITED STATES WITH THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE LAUNCHED TO DEVELOP YOUR NATION'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF YOUR CITIZENS.

I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAINING THE STRONG TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. OUR PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP, BUILT ON A SHARED FAITH, IS A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND INSPIRATION TO ME, AND I TRUST TO YOU AS WELL.

AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP, AND ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIFTS WHICH REMIND US OF OUR INDIVIDUAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND OUR HERITAGE, AND FOR THE LOVELY DRESSES AND JEWELRY PRESENTED TO ROSALYNN AND AMY. WE WILL LONG REMEMBER AND TREASURE OUR VISIT WITH YOU TODAY. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END QUOTE.

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